

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLICATION  
File Name: 22a0462n.06

Case No. 22-3194

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

v.

JASON JARVIS,

Defendant-Appellant.

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ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED  
STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF  
OHIO

OPINION

**FILED**  
Nov 17, 2022  
DEBORAH S. HUNT, Clerk

Before: SUTTON, Chief Judge; COLE and THAPAR, Circuit Judges.

THAPAR, Circuit Judge. Jason Jarvis pled guilty for his role in a drug-trafficking conspiracy. He challenges his sentence and his trial counsel's effectiveness. We affirm his sentence and decline to consider his ineffective-assistance claim.

I.

A police officer pulled Jarvis and his then-girlfriend over for driving without a rearview mirror. The officer ordered Jarvis out of the car and patted him down. Feeling something that resembled a bag of marijuana, the officer reached into Jarvis's pocket and found methamphetamine. The police arrested Jarvis and seized his girlfriend's cellphone. The district court suppressed the methamphetamine, holding that the officer did not have reasonable suspicion to reach into Jarvis's pocket. But the government still had enough evidence to support a conspiracy charge. Numerous Facebook and text messages showed that Jarvis was deeply involved in the

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drug conspiracy. So he pled guilty, and the district court sentenced Jarvis to 120 months' imprisonment.

## II.

Jarvis first challenges his sentence. Before imposing sentence, the district court reviewed Jarvis's multiple prior offenses. A state conviction for driving with a suspended license put him in a higher criminal history category and increased his recommended sentence by more than a year. *See U.S.S.G. ch. 5 pt. A.* He claims that the district court should not have considered the suspended license conviction because he wasn't represented by counsel in that case.

Jarvis is right that generally a district court may not consider a previous uncounseled conviction during sentencing. *United States v. Logan*, 250 F.3d 350, 377 (6th Cir. 2001), *superseded on other grounds by rule*, Fed. R. Evid. 408. But there's an exception if the defendant waived his right to counsel in the earlier case. *Id.* And that's what Jarvis did. The sentencing order from the prior conviction notes that Jarvis "was advised of . . . [and] knowingly waived" his right to counsel. R. 510, Pg. ID 2896. Based on that order, the district court concluded that Jarvis had waived his right to counsel in the earlier proceeding.

Jarvis contends that his sentencing order is insufficient proof of waiver because he didn't sign the order. But the state court apparently "never includes a defendant's signature" on its sentencing orders. R. 560, Pg. ID 3170. And Jarvis didn't contest that practice. Indeed, he produced no evidence showing the state court should have required Jarvis to sign his sentencing order. So the district court found that the form showed Jarvis waived his right to counsel. Because the district court is best positioned to make that fact-bound determination, we review for abuse of discretion. *See United States v. Shor*, 549 F.3d 1075, 1077 (6th Cir. 2008). Given the clear statement of waiver in the sentencing order and the state court's unchallenged practice, the district

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court did not abuse its discretion by concluding that Jarvis waived his right to counsel in the state proceeding.

III.

Jarvis also argues that his trial counsel was ineffective for failing to investigate whether the evidence from his then-girlfriend's phone could be suppressed.

This is an unusual claim to bring at this stage. Jarvis did not raise this claim below, so he failed to develop a record explaining his counsel's choices. That leaves us guessing about important questions: Did Jarvis have standing to challenge the seizure of his girlfriend's phone? What evidence came from the phone? How much did Jarvis's trial counsel know about the phone? Because we can only speculate, we leave Jarvis's ineffective assistance claim for post-conviction proceedings, where he can more fully develop a factual record. *See United States v. Bradley*, 400 F.3d 459, 461–62 (6th Cir. 2005). In short, there is inadequate evidence for us to consider Jarvis's ineffective-assistance claim.

\* \* \*

We affirm the district court's sentence and leave Jarvis's ineffective-assistance claim for post-conviction proceedings.

**PACER fee: Exempt**

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**General Docket****United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit****Court of Appeals Docket #:** 22-3194

USA v. Jason Jarvis

**Appeal From:** Northern District of Ohio at Cleveland**Fee Status:** In Forma Pauperis**Docketed:** 03/09/2022**Termed:** 11/17/2022**Case Type Information:**

- 1) Criminal
- 2) Direct Criminal
- 3) null

**Originating Court Information:****District:** 0647-1 : 1:20-cr-00561-2**Court Reporter:** Lance Boardman**Court Reporter:** Heather Kathleen Newman**Court Reporter:** Angela Nixon**Court Reporter:** George John Staiduhar**Court Reporter:** Susan Trischan**Trial Judge:** James S. Gwin, U.S. District Judge**Date Filed:** 09/24/2020**Date Order/Judgment:**

03/01/2022

**Date NOA Filed:**

03/08/2022

10/05/2022 41 CAUSE SUBMITTED on briefs to panel consisting of Judges Sutton, Cole and Thapar. (KSF) [Entered: 11/17/2022 11:05 AM]

10/07/2022 39 REPLY BRIEF filed by Attorney Mr. Steven D. Jaeger for Appellant Jason Jarvis. Certificate of Service: 10/07/2022. [22-3194] (SDJ) [Entered: 10/07/2022 12:11 PM]

11/17/2022 40 UNPUBLISHED OPINION and JUDGMENT filed : The sentence imposed on Jason Jarvis by the district court is AFFIRMED. The court leaves Jarvis's ineffective-assistance claim for post-conviction proceedings. Decision not for publication. Jeffrey S. Sutton, Chief Judge; R. Guy Cole, Jr. and Amul R. Thapar (AUTHORING), Circuit Judges. (CL) [Entered: 11/17/2022 10:54 AM]

11/29/2022 42 MOTION filed by Mr. Steven D. Jaeger for Jason Jarvis to extend time to file petition for rehearing until 11/29/2022. Certificate of Service: 11/29/2022. [22-3194] (SDJ) [Entered: 11/29/2022 01:36 PM]

11/29/2022 43 MOTION filed by Mr. Steven D. Jaeger for Jason Jarvis for Steven D. Jaeger to withdraw as counsel for Jason Blake Jarvis. Certificate of Service: 11/29/2022. [22-3194] (SDJ) [Entered: 11/29/2022 01:38 PM]

11/30/2022 44 NOTIFICATION filed by Mr. Steven D. Jaeger for Jason Jarvis regarding Documents 42 and 43 Motion for Extension of Time and Motion to Withdraw.. Certificate of Service: 11/29/2022. [22-3194] (SDJ) [Entered: 11/30/2022 12:00 PM]

12/01/2022 45 ORDER filed granting motion to withdraw as counsel [43] filed by Mr. Steven D. Jaeger. The motion for extension of time for appellant to file a petition for rehearing en banc [42], is rendered MOOT. The appellant filed a timely petition for rehearing en banc. Jeffrey S. Sutton, Chief Circuit Judge; R. Guy Cole, Jr. and Amul R. Thapar, Circuit Judges. (BLH) [Entered: 12/01/2022 01:53 PM]

12/01/2022 46 PETITION for en banc rehearing filed by Jason Jarvis. Certificate of Service: 11/29/2022. (BLH) [Entered: 12/01/2022 02:14 PM]

12/19/2022 47 ORDER filed denying petition for en banc rehearing [46] filed by Jason Jarvis. Jeffrey S. Sutton, Chief Circuit Judge; R. Guy Cole, Jr. and Amul R. Thapar, Circuit Judges. (BLH) [Entered: 12/19/2022 09:19 AM]

12/27/2022 48 MANDATE ISSUED with no costs taxed. (ADT) [Entered: 12/27/2022 01:49 PM]